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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/587,352	01/26/2007	Dieter Ramsauer	STR-1015/500638.20037	6582
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EXAMINER				
MAIL, CHUCK Y				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3677				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/06/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/587,352

Applicant(s)

RAMSAUER, DIETER

Examiner

Chuck Mah

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/17/2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 44-89 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 48-53,55-82,84-87 and 89 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 44-47,54,83 and 88 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/003)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of species Figures 42A to 42D, claims 44-47, 54, 59, 60, 83 and 88 in the reply filed on Jun. 17, 2009 is acknowledged. However, claims 59, 60 and 82 depend from non-elected species (claims 56 and 79). Therefore, claims 59, 60 and 82 are treated as non-elected claims. Further, applicant's election does not clearly state whether applicant elects the species with or without traverse. The election is treated as an election without traverse.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 44-47, 54, 83 and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 44, line 8, "a free end of said holding elements" is confusing. It is not clear whether "a free end" is referring to one single end defined by a plurality of holding elements or is referring to plurality of ends formed on each of the "holding elements". Apparently, "each of" may be inserted after "a free end".

Line 14, it is not clear what the "spring" is referring to and how it is related to the claimed. The claim does not positively recite "a spring".

Lines 15-16, it cannot be understood how "a cylinder" is structurally related or linked to the claimed invention. Is the "cylinder" part of the body or part of an extraneous element?

Lines 17-18, it is unclear how the "slides" is capable of performing sliding, as they are held by a hook arrangement locking, friction or a pin. The structural relationship between the slides and the cylinder cannot be understood.

In claim 46, it is not clear what "supporting elements" are referring to and how the elements are structurally related to the embodiment shown in figures 42A-42D.

In claim 47, line 3, "such as spiral springs and/or wedge...screw" renders the claim vague and indefinite. None of the embodiments of figures 42A-42D shows the alternatives or combinations as claimed.

In claim 54, line 1, "the holding element" should be "each of the holding elements", to harmonize the plurality of "elements" stated in claim 44.

Line 2, it is not clear what is being defined as "the movement direction".

For claims 83 and 88, applicant is reminded that both claims contain no positive structural limitations. Note that intended use is given no patentable weight.

4. Claims 44-47, 54, 83 and 88 may be given favorable consideration if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note that patent number 5,445,159 cited in applicant's IDS is incorrect. A correct patent 5,435,159 (Ramsauer) has been placed in the PTO-892 by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuck Mah whose telephone number is (571)272-7059. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on (571)272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chuck Mah/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3677

CM